

Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-25

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

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SUBJECT: POLISH PRESS ON KISSINGER AND ROGERS SPEECHES

1. SUMMARY: THE POLISH PRESS REACTED TO THE SECRETARY'S AND DR. KISSINGER'S APRIL 23 SPEECHES BY COMMENTING THAT THE US DESIRES TO MAINTAIN ITS PRESENCE AND INFLUENCE IN EUROPE WHILE TRANSFERRING SOME OF THE ATTENDANT COSTS TO ITS ALLIES. END SUMMARY

2. THE SPEECHES ON U S- EUROPEAN RELATIONS GIVEN BY SECRETARY ROGERS AND DR. KISSINGER APRIL 23 EVOKED A MEASURED AND GENERALLY NON- POLEMICAL REACTION FROM THE POLISH PRESS. SIMILAR COMMENTARIES EMPHASIZING THE " NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER" THEME APPEARED IN PARTY PAPER TRYBUNA LUDU AND IN THE NORMALLY CONSERVATIVE ARMY DAILY ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI.

3. THE PAPERS AGREED IN PRESENTING THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO: GIVEN THE GENERAL DECLINE IN THE US ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS, WASHINGTON HAD FOCUSED ON EUROPE IN AN ATTEMPT TO PREVENT ITS INFLUENCE IN THAT AREA OF THE WORLD AT LEAST FROM BEING SERIOUSLY WEAKENED. THIS WAS THE BACKGROUND OF THE " NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER", WHICH TRYBUNA DESCRIBED AS AN ATTEMPT TO " INSTITUTIONALIZE" US INFLUENCE IN EUROPE AND THEREBY MAINTAIN THAT COUNTRY'S " LEADING
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POSITION IN THE WEST". ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI THOUGHT THAT THIS POLICY WOULD ENCOUNTER SIGNIFICANT EUROPEAN OPPOSITION, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT INCLUDED AN ATTEMPT TO TRANSFER SOME OF THE ECONOMIC BURDEN OF THE US MILITARY PRESENCE TO THE NATO ALLIES. BUT TRYBUNA POINTED OUT THAT THE US WAS COUNTING ON CONTINUED EUROPEAN INTEREST IN THE PRESENCE OF ITS TROOPS AND HOPED TO USE THIS FACTOR TO EXTRACT NOT ONLY GREATER NATO CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SUPPORT OF ITS FORCES, BUT EUROPEAN MONETARY AND TRADE CONCESSIONS AS WELL.

4. IN CONCLUSION, TRYBUNA SAID THAT THE " GREAT GAME" OF US- EUROPEAN RELATIONS WAS ABOUT TO ENTER A NEW STAGE. THE OUTCOME OF THIS GAME, SINCE IT WOULD DETERMINE THE PACE OF FUTURE EAST- WEST DETENTE, COULD NOT BE A MATTER OF INDIFFERENCE TO POLAND.
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